



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:** (1) What credentials are required to legally perform a complete Pulmonary Function Test (PFT) in the state of California? (2) Who issues these credentials?

**Response:** Please be advised that performing pulmonary function test (PFT), constitutes the practice of respiratory in the State of California, with one exception, the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA) provides that any person performing PFTs must possess a license that authorizes the performance of PFTs. Licenses issued by other health care licensing boards may authorize the performance of PFTs. The RCB suggests that you contact other health care licensing board regarding their statutory scope of practice in this regard. The RCPA does recognize one exception to this rule and the exception is contained in Section 3765(f) which provides that an unlicensed person may engage in cardiopulmonary research.

Reference # 2001-C-07